

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~the~~ a creation or modification of an orthopedic joint within a mammalian body, the system comprising an implant ~~one or more partially or fully preformed polymeric components~~, adapted to be inserted and positioned at a joint site to provide ~~an implant having~~ at least one major surface in apposition to supporting bone, and at least a second major surface in apposition to opposing bone,

wherein the implant is a knee implant and provides a first major surface adapted to be positioned upon and congruent with ~~a the~~ tibial surface of the knee, and a second major surface adapted to be positioned against ~~a the~~ femoral condyle of the knee,

and wherein the second major surface is provided with a femoral glide path to facilitate its performance *in situ*, the glide path being in the form of a generally central depression,

the implant further comprising one or more tibial projections adapted to extend distally over ~~a the~~ rim of a posterior portion of the tibial plateau and to proceed in a mesial direction in order to improve fixation *in situ*.

2.(Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the implant ~~tibial projection(s)~~ are adapted to catch the posterior portion of the tibial plateau by extending over the rim of the tibial plateau distally, and the preformed component has dimensions on the order of between about 30 to about 60 mm in an ~~the~~ anterior-posterior dimension, between about 20 mm to about 40 mm in a the medial-lateral dimension, and a maximum thickness, at a the posterior lip, of between about 8 mm and about 20 mm, or about 3mm to about 10 mm greater than the thickness of the implant at a the center.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the implant further comprises at least one ancillary component integrated into, and partially extending from, the implant to provide anterior fixation.

5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 4 wherein the ancillary component comprises one or more protrusions adapted to be attached to either soft tissue and/or bone at the knee joint site to improve fixation.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 further comprising one or more separate components for securing the implant to the knee joint site, selected from a the group consisting of adhesives, sutures, pins, staples, screws, and combinations thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 2 wherein a plurality of implants ~~preformed components~~ are provided in a corresponding plurality or range of styles and sizes for selection and use in a the surgical field.

10-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the implant ~~polymeric component~~ comprises one or more surfaces having attached thereto a biologically active agent selected from the group cytokines, growth factors, autologous growth factors, hydroxyapatite, collagen, and combinations thereof.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the glide path is in the form of a generally central oval depression about 0.5 mm to about 5mm deep at its lowest point and about 20 mm to about 50 mm in length by 10 mm to 30 mm in width.

20-27. (Cancelled).

28. (Original) A system according to claim 3 wherein the glide path is in the form of a generally central oval depression about 0.5 mm to about 5mm deep at its lowest point and about 20 mm to about 50 mm in length by 10 mm to 30 mm in width.

29-45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) A system according to claim 1 wherein the implant comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, polyethylenes, polypropylenes, Dacrons, polyureas, hydrogels, metals, ceramics, epoxies, polysiloxanes, and polyacrylates.

47. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein the implant comprises a metal.

48. (New) A system according to claim 47, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of titanium, stainless steel, cobalt chrome millithium alloys and tantalum.

49. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein the tibial projection is adapted to occupy a posterior cruciate ligament sulcus *in situ*.